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ILLINOIS

washington county

CONSERVATION AREA

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CONSERVATION

THE AREA

Washington County Conservation Area, 4 miles south of Nashville in southern Illinois, has a long, thin lake surrounded by fields and woods. The initial land acquisition of 160 acres was made in 1959 by the State of Illinois. The total acreage is now 1,377.

THE LAKE

The focal point of the site is the lake. Washington County lake covers 248 acres, has a maximum depth of 25 feet and has a shoreline of 13.3 miles. The lake was constructed in 1960 by the Department of Conservation and is fed by two small creeks.

THE NATURAL SCENE

Washington County Conservation Area is characterized by an abundance of cover, especially in the form of shrub field divisions and fence-rows. Fallow fields, brushy draws, lespedeza plantings and interspersed stands of hardwood timber, pine stands and small cultivated fields provide excellent cover and food for upland game. Wildlife includes rabbit, quail, squirrel, dove, deer and woodcock.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: There are seven areas scattered around the lake with tables, outdoor stoves, drinking water and playground equipment available. A concession stand has available soft drinks, sandwiches and fishing tackle.

Camping: Tent and trailer spaces are available, with electricity, a trailer disposal and a shower building. Campers should obtain a permit from the site manager before entering the campgrounds. Group camping is also available; groups of over 25 persons need advance permission to enter the conservation area.

Trails: There is one hiking trail that covers approximately 9.7 miles.

Fishing and Boating: The lake contains largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, channel catfish and carp. There are two launching ramps, docks and boat rentals. The

motor limit is 10 horsepower.

HUNTING REGULATIONS.

1. Hunting is restricted to those portions of the areas posted as open to hunting.

2. A check station is present on the area (see map) and all hunters, except squirrel hunters shall check in and secure a back patch to be displayed at all times while hunting on the area.

3. All hunters, including squirrel hunters, are to check out and report their day's take.

4. All hunting is to be with a shotgun or bow and arrow only.

5. All other applicable regulations found in the Illinois Game Code and Federal regulations will be in effect.

Check with the site ranger for game species and hunting times and dates. There is a total of 900 huntable acres.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on leash.

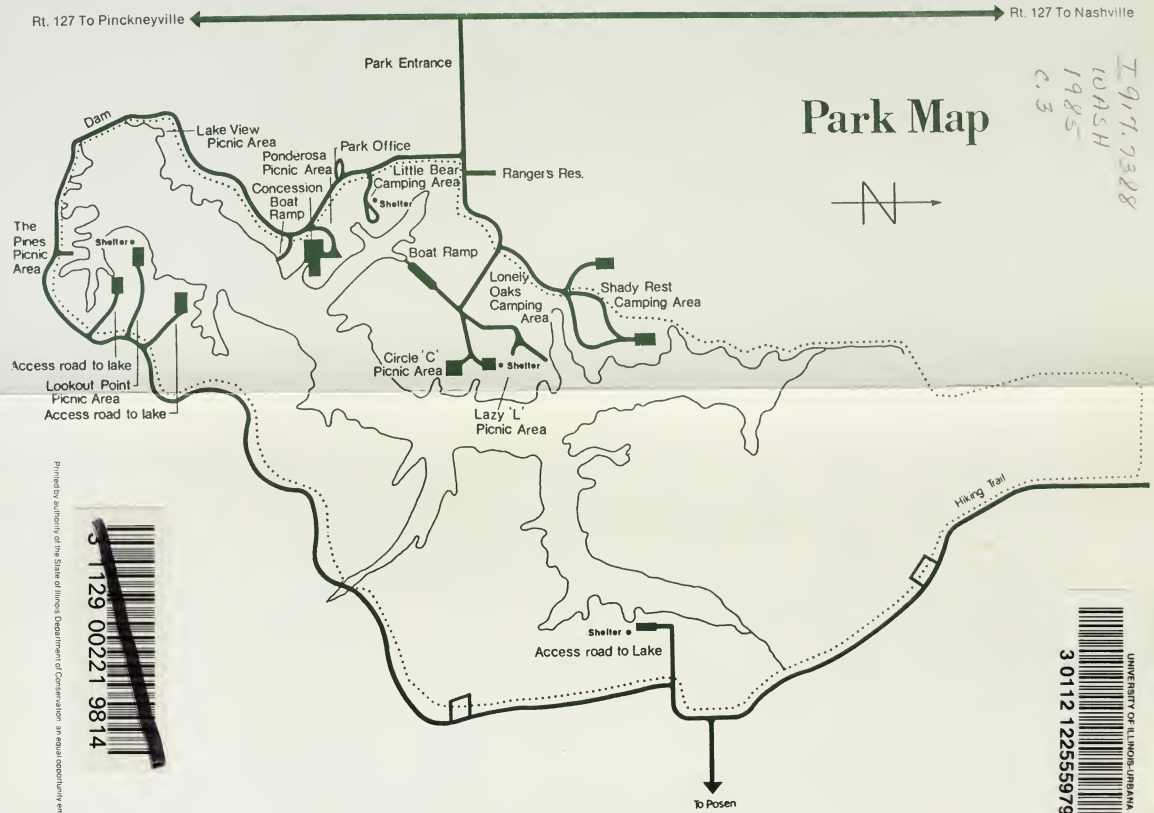
Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illiinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Site Superintendent, R.R. 3, Nashville, IL 62263, phone 618/327-3137.

For information on other land and historic sites, write the Illinois Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706.

Park Map



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